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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Note verbale dated 25 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to send the latter the results of the Copenhagen session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which contain, inter alia, the resolutions of the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

It is the Union's practice for the Government of the host country of each Conference to take the responsibility for transmitting the resolutions to the General Assembly of the United Nations. It would therefore be appreciated, if the Secretary-General would bring the enclosed resolutions to the attention of the delegations attending the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly and distribute the text as an official document of the Assembly under agenda items 88 (a), 95 and 100.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

92ND CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The 92nd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union* was held in Copenhagen (Denmark) from 12 to 17 September 1994, at the invitation of the Parliament of Denmark. The Conference brought together 583 members of Parliament from 119 countries and the representatives of 49 observer delegations.

In the course of its proceedings, the Conference adopted the attached resolutions.

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* The Inter-Parliamentary Union's membership was as follows as at 17 September 1994:

Members (131)

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Associate Members

Andean Parliament, Latin American Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL STRUCTURES, INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF SOCIETY WHICH PLAY A ROLE IN PROMOTING AND SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Copenhagen, 17 September 1994)

The 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Mindful of the need to promote respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people throughout the world and of all minorities, without distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, age or religion, in accordance with the aims of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and stressing that human rights are inherent to every human being,

Deeply concerned that the human rights situation in various regions of the world is under serious threat from problems such as foreign occupation, wars, the growth of racism and nationalistic, sectarian, religious and tribal conflicts, terrorism, drug trafficking and poverty,

Reaffirming that genuine observance of human rights throughout the world is the foundation on which to build social justice, economic prosperity and development which honours human values, and that their full respect is indispensable for the further development of friendly relations and co-operation between governments and hence for the establishment of peace,

Endeavouring to promote universal implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Human Rights Covenants in all areas and in accordance with the aims and principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, and to encourage countries to observe the obligations they have assumed under the fundamental international instruments, including regional ones, relating to human rights and humanitarian issues,

Considering that human dignity implies due respect for the freedom of all people to decide on their own destiny and the freedom to engage, without hindrance or limitation and in accordance with the law, in any activity they may deem appropriate to the achievement of their cultural, social and economic development,

Welcoming the appointment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as the international focal point for the dynamic development of international human rights standards and practices,

Noting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, which reaffirm the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, disseminating human rights information, and providing education in human rights,

Noting the resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly, in particular resolutions 1993/55 of 9 March 1993 and 1994/54 of 4 March 1994, as well as resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993, respectively,

Reaffirming the "Principles relating to the status of national institutions" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1993,

Conscious of the important role played by national institutions in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms - including the right to development - and in sensitizing public opinion to these rights and freedoms,

Noting the importance of the activities of non-governmental organizations in promoting and protecting economic, civil, political, social and cultural rights, and recognizing that education and training, information and documentation play a key role in building awareness and understanding of human rights,

Acknowledging the global plan of action entitled "Education and Information on Human Rights and Democracy" drafted by UNESCO and adopted at the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy held in Montreal from 8 to 11 March 1993, as well as the resolution adopted by the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "The implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values",

Noting with satisfaction the acknowledgement in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that the human rights of women are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and welcoming the appointment by the Commission on Human Rights of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women,

Welcoming the Second International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Tunis (13 to 17 December 1993), and taking note of the decisions and recommendations on the strengthening of national institutions adopted on that occasion, as well as the recommendations on the protection of the disabled, children, women and migrants and on arbitrary detention and torture,

Acknowledging the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights and the associated Programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the UN Centre for Human Rights,

Realizing that, owing to the diversity of national contexts and of the structures and operating methods of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, it is neither possible nor necessary for all countries to follow the same model in setting up such institutions,

Stressing that parliaments play a unique and important role in helping governments by adopting legislation to establish national institutions and enhance the operation of such institutions where they already exist,

Recalling the results of the Inter-Parliamentary Symposium on *"Parliament: Guardian of Human Rights"*, held in Budapest from 19 to 22 May 1993, and the resolution adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council on 18 September 1993 commending the results of the Symposium and recommending specific follow-up measures,

1. Stresses the importance of universal ratification of the international instruments relating to human rights, and calls on those States which have not done so, to ratify them as soon as possible, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

2. Strongly urges States to enact national legislation incorporating the standards embodied in international human rights instruments and to create general conditions conducive to the promotion and protection of human rights, including minority rights, and sustained development;

3. Calls on parliaments to harmonize existing national legislation with international human rights instruments;

4. Also calls on all States to condemn all acts, especially terrorist acts, sponsored by any State, group or person resulting in the destruction of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to support the proposal for the setting up of an international Criminal Court to prosecute and try those accused of such acts;

5. Recalls the resolution adopted by the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "Policies to put an end to violence against women and children", and urges parliaments to facilitate implementation of UN instruments, including the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1993, relating to victims of crime, abuse of power, torture and violence against women and children, paying special attention to provisions on the rehabilitation of victims and their access to compensation;

6. Calls on all States to co-operate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights;

7. Reaffirms the importance of creating or strengthening, in accordance with national legislation, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and of ensuring the pluralism of their membership and their independence;

8. Recognizes that it is the right of each State, in creating such institutions, to choose the framework best suited to its particular needs;

9. Encourages State-established national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights to prevent and combat all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international instruments;

10. Calls on States to honour the "Principles relating to the status of national institutions" to ensure in particular, that these institutions are:

(a) independent of Government;

(b) provided with adequate funding;

(c) pluralistic and represent those in society involved in the promotion and protection of human rights;

(d) empowered to comment on the human rights performance of their government; and

(e) active in human rights education;

11. Requests States to grant, within the limits of legislation and established procedure, resources to national institutions so that they may contribute appropriately to legislative activity and to the drafting of reports to be submitted to relevant UN treaty bodies;

12. Calls on States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of national institutions;

13. Also calls on parliaments to establish mechanisms for examining and responding to reports prepared by national human rights institutions;

14. Renews its appeal to States to spare no effort in drawing up and implementing effective legal and other procedures and mechanisms which guarantee better application of international human rights provisions, particularly in the field of administration of justice;

15. Calls on all States to respect the political rights of opposition parties and the freedom of the media;

16. Also calls on all States to ensure that the various national structures, institutions and organizations, including the Judiciary, public prosecutors, police and the armed forces, prison personnel and all responsible agencies are instructed regarding all aspects of their duties and responsibilities deriving from the UN Human Rights Covenants;

17. Recognizes that under the rule of law the police and prosecuting authorities are to be regarded as essential guarantors of an individual's human rights and thus discourage extrajudicial action by aggrieved citizens;

18. Requests States to support information and public awareness programmes for the teaching, promotion and understanding of human rights, in order to combat all forms of discrimination;

19. Calls on parliaments to recognize the important and constructive role that non-governmental organizations can play in conjunction with national institutions, and to support their efforts in order to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. Recommends that the United Nations Secretary-General give priority to requests for assistance submitted by States in establishing or strengthening national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as part of the Programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights;

21. Recommends further that the UN Secretary-General establish, as soon as possible, a Voluntary Fund for National Institutions, in accordance with the financial rules of the UN, this fund to be managed by a board of directors comprising appropriate representation of the national institutions;

22. Urges strengthening the role of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights as well as the UNESCO Voluntary Fund for the Development of Awareness on Human Rights

through Education and Information, so that governments which so request may obtain assistance for education, information and documentation projects, including those of non-governmental organizations;

23. Reiterates that parliamentary activity as a whole, which covers the entire spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, aims at guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms;

24. Reaffirms that parliamentary democracy can only have real meaning insofar as women are represented in parliament on the basis of strict equality with men in both law and practice, and strongly urges parliaments to promote the Plan of Action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council on 26 March 1994;

25. Affirms that parliamentary activities in support of human rights can be enhanced through parliamentary committees or sub-committees with a mandate to ensure that human rights are promoted and respected, and urges parliaments to establish such bodies where they do not yet exist and to use the IPU publication "World Directory of Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies" to facilitate contacts and exchange among them;

26. Reiterates its support for the different human rights activities carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in particular its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, and urges all National Groups to strengthen their support for the work of this body, in particular by taking the measures recommended by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in its resolution on the Results and Follow-up of the Inter-Parliamentary Symposium on "Parliament: Guardian of Human Rights".

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND NATIONAL ACTION TO SUPPORT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT POVERTY

Contribution of parliaments to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995)

Resolution unanimously adopted by the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Copenhagen, 17 September 1994)

The 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Considering that the decision of the United Nations General Assembly (resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992) to hold a World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, provides an opportunity to examine fundamental human and social concerns that are common to the whole of humanity, strengthen solidarity and renew resolve to uphold the ideals of peace, progress, dignity and justice in larger freedom, which are enshrined in the United Nations Charter,

Believing that development is sustainable only to the extent that it is human-centered and that new and imaginative ways must be found to respond to such common challenges as persistent poverty and wide disparities in standards of living, high unemployment, the adverse social effects of structural adjustment, disintegration of the social fabric, environmental degradation and pollution, and instability created by ethnic tensions, civil strife and inter- and intra-State conflicts,

Recognizing that all countries of the world and particularly developing countries face poverty-related problems,

Conscious that poverty in its most extreme forms leads to life without dignity and excessively premature death,

Recognizing that peace is the bedrock of social development, and stressing the need to direct national efforts away from military priorities and towards more productive and peaceful objectives, bearing national security implications in mind,

Acknowledging that sustained and sustainable economic growth is the driving force that enables social development to promote the reduction and elimination of widespread poverty, the expansion of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, as well as social integration, and convinced that in the majority of developing countries, debt servicing exceeds national budgets for education, housing, health, environment and social security, absorbs a high percentage of their annual income and is a major obstacle to their development,

Suggesting that the concept of human rights should be extended to include the right to work, the right to food and nutrition, the right to education, the right to health and the right to shelter,

Aware that sustainability starts with the environment and that it is imperative to use renewable resources and avoid over-consumption of non-renewable ones, and expressing deep concern at the harmful effects of toxic and hazardous wastes on health and environment and at illegal trade in nuclear materials,

Considering that development should be measured in terms of the well-being of the people, the principal asset of any nation,

Mindful of the essential role that women can play in human development,

Acknowledging that it is the duty of each country to address its own social problems as they arise and to contribute to progress towards a more global solution to social challenges,

Recognizing that the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is making a valuable contribution to combating poverty in the developing countries,

Expressing concern that the gap between rich and poor countries is widening,

Concerned that the terms of trade for raw materials and industrial goods continue to deteriorate to the detriment of the developing countries,

Noting with regret that very few industrialized countries have met the target of 0.7% of GNP in development aid, which was set by the United Nations,

Reaffirming the need to seek a lasting global solution to the problem of developing countries' external debt by various means, such as the streamlined rescheduling of that debt, the cancellation of a part thereof and a significant reduction in interest rates applying to various debts,

Realizing that successful social development depends on ensuring the financial capacity, the reliability and the integrity of State institutions and the ability of government to implement its policies and carry out its functions with international co-operation, and on ensuring accountability for action and transparency in decision-making,

Conscious of the danger that hopelessness caused by long-term unemployment and persistent poverty may generate anxiety, aggression and xenophobia and destroy established social ties,

Mindful that the migratory flows triggered by the current conflicts in many different countries could also threaten the social order in other parts of the world,

Stressing the urgent need to intensify efforts and action at national, regional and international levels in order to eliminate poverty in the world as a first step towards sustainable development, but noting that governments cannot meet all the needs of their citizens and that to achieve the goals of social development, it is essential that governments, NGOs, the private sector and ordinary citizens all work together in close and harmonious partnership,

Considering that all the above concerns are at the core of major international commitments made to development, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted in 1966 and the Agenda 21 Programme adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992,

1. Recommends that the Summit should, as a matter of priority:

(a) Declare that social progress is imperative and possible;

(b) Pledge to build new foundations for human security which ensure the security of people - in their homes, in their jobs, in their communities and in their environment - through development, not arms; through co-operation, not confrontation; through peace, not war;

(c) Encourage fair distribution of wealth in all societies, reduction of military spending, and the changes in lifestyles imposed by limited natural resources;

(d) Pledge to take all necessary action, nationally and globally, to reduce disparities within and between nations, including through such international institutions as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which should evaluate projects in advance;

(e) Undertake to achieve full equality between men and women and enhance the contribution of women to social programmes and development;

(f) Affirm that the highest priority is to ensure that no human being is deprived of food, no child goes without education, no human being is denied primary health care or safe drinking water, and that all are able to determine the size of their own families;

(g) Solemnly declare the intention to design a pattern of economic and social development co-operation based on open global markets, not protectionism; equitable sharing of market opportunities, not charity; an open policy dialogue between sovereign States, not coercion;

(h) Resolve to make it possible for any man or woman who so wishes to earn a livelihood through freely chosen productive employment, self-employment and other forms of work, and to devise social, economic and financial policies to create productive employment and reduce and prevent poverty;

(i) Promote solidarity, responsibility and freedom as the foundation of social development in the XXIst century, and bear in mind the need to strike a balance between economic efficiency and social justice in an environment conducive to sustainable development, in accordance with nationally defined priorities,

(j) Urge the partners in economic and social development - parliaments, employers' and workers' organizations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, national institutions and society at large - to help promote the well-being of the individual and the proper functioning of societies;

(k) Undertake to establish and develop, in each nation, a strategy and timetable to eliminate extreme poverty, promote productive employment and address priority social issues;

(l) Implement a "20-20" human compact which sets out essential and minimum targets for human development over a 10-year period (1995-2005): universal primary education, reduction of adult illiteracy rates, primary health care for all, elimination of severe malnutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation for all, credit for all and family planning services for all willing couples; developing countries and donor countries would earmark, respectively, at least 20 per cent of their budget and at least 20 per cent of the amount of their aid in order to reach a minimum threshold of human development;

(m) Call on the industrialized countries to earmark at least 0.7% of their GNP for development aid before the year 2000, in line with the recommendations made by the United Nations and confirmed by the IPU in the Brasilia Plan of Action and recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on "North-South Dialogue for Global Prosperity";

(n) Seek the necessary financing through the reallocation of existing resources, and from such new and additional resources as may be obtained from, inter alia, the peace dividend and fair and efficient taxation;

(o) Promote the reform of the United Nations - in particular through the creation of an Economic Security Council where developing countries would be adequately represented, and which would have protected voting mechanisms - so as to make the Organization the principal custodian of global human security; and take the necessary steps for the creation of an international fund for social development;

2. Urges Heads of State or Government to attend the Summit in person in order to secure the effective implementation of its outcome;

3. Calls on Heads of State or Government to draw up a World Social Charter in which they pledge to provide the means to promote peace and human security;

4. Calls also on parliaments to promote the objectives relating to the welfare of children contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action drawn up at the 1990 World Summit for Children and, in particular, to provide the greatest possible support to measures aimed at alleviating child poverty;

5. Urges governments to make provision for mutual legal aid so as to prohibit the transfer and repatriation of illegally acquired capital, to harmonize legislation so as to prevent those involved in capital flight from taking advantage of more favourable legislation, and to combat corruption.

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS AGREED IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Copenhagen, 17 September 1994)

The 92nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on 15 December 1993 and the agreements, decisions and declarations adopted at the Uruguay Round Ministerial Meeting held at Marrakesh (Morocco) from 12-15 April 1994,

Noting the nigh level of participation by both developed and developing countries and their contribution to the success of the negotiations,

Recognizing that the outcome of the Round presents an unparalleled opportunity to promote global economic growth and improve levels of income and employment,

Acknowledging that the creation of a common set of rules to govern trade in agriculture is a major achievement,

Welcoming the widening of the GATT system envisaged under the World Trade Organization (WTO) to include services and intellectual property, as well as improvements in rules for trade in goods, including agricultural products,

Also welcoming the integrated dispute settlement mechanism which accelerates the resolution of disputes by setting strict time limits, and calling on all signatories to refrain from unilateral retaliation,

Wishing to encourage efforts to establish a more liberal international trading environment and to prevent future movements towards protectionism,

Stressing the need to support new democracies and developing countries in their efforts to strengthen their economies, improve their standard of living and open up fully to international trade on a fair and equitable basis,

Reaffirming its commitment to an open, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing the role of governments in promoting national policies geared towards such objectives,

Recognizing the importance of the earliest practical implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements,

Drawing attention to the emergence of new forms of protectionism, which impairs market access,

1. Urges all parliaments to support the entry into force of the Uruguay Round agreements and the establishment of the WTO by 1 January 1995;

2. Calls on parliaments to encourage all Uruguay Round signatories to implement their national commitments and obligations without delay, by taking the necessary regulatory and administrative measures to facilitate the expeditious implementation of the Round's agreements;

3. Considering the importance of the United States of America, the European Union and Japan for the international trading system, acknowledges their continued leadership throughout the trade negotiation process, and urges them to pass legislation to ensure that the WTO does indeed become operational by the deadline of 1 January 1995.